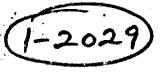


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505



22 JUL 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hr. Frederick Z. Brown Director, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Department of State

> Mr. Frank A. Sieverts Deputy Coordinator for Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Matters Department of State

Bruce L. Heller, Commander, USN (R) Chief, Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Branch Resources and Installations Division Defense Intelligence Agency

Raymond Vohden, Captain, USN Principal Advisor for Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Affairs (International Security Affairs) Office of the Secretary of Defense

FROM

Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT

Invalidation of Information Obtained from

REFERENCE

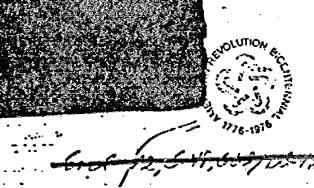
FIR-317/09161-77, 20 May 1977

Analysis of information provided and additional questioning have established the possibility did not obtain referent information in the manner alleged or from the two principal subsources described.

been confirmed as real persons.

Both individuals, however, have

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

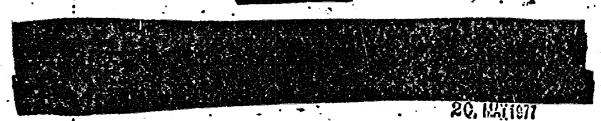


provided convincing documentation for claims to previous employment by military and civilian U.S. organizations have also been verified.

is being processed for entrance to the United States as a refugee. We believe that further questioning by this agency s not practical at this time.

4. Under the circumstances, it cannot be determined at this time whether any of information is reliable.

CIR-316/02458-77-



HEMORANDUM FOR:

HR. JAMES D. ROSENTHAL DIRECTOR, VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

MR. FRANK A. SIEVERTS
DEPUTY COORDINATOR FOR PRISONER OF WAR
AND WISSING IN ACTION MATTERS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRUCE L. HELLER, COMMANDER, USN (R)
CHIEF, PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION BRANCH
RESOURCES AND INSTALLATIONS DIVISION
DIRECTORATE FOR INTELLIGENCE (RESEARCH CENTER)

RAYMOND VOHDEN, CAPTAIN, USN
PRINCIPAL ADVISOR FOR PRISONER OF WAR AND
MISSING IN ACTION AFFAIRS
(INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS)
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM

WILLIAM N. WELLS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

Subject

REPORTED SIGHTINGS OF CAUCASIAN/AMERICAN PRISONERS IN NORTH VIETNAM

NO HARD COPY FOLLOWS

ATTACHED AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO YOU IS A REPORT RESULTING FROM INFORMATION OBTAINED IN MAY 1977. WE ARE GIVING THIS REPORT NO FURTHER DISSEMINATION.

WILLIAM W. WELLS

CC: NIO
DDI/OPPA
DDI/OSR

ATTACHMENT: REPORT AS STATED

FIR-317/09161-77

CLASSIFIED BY SIGNER. XGDS-2

SUBJECT: REPORTED SIGHTINGS OF CAUCASIAN/AMERICAN PRISONERS IN
NORTH VIETNAM

IN SPRING 1975 WHILE HE WAS ON A WORK DETAIL, (FNU)

A FORMER ARM OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN)

MHO WAS CAPTURED BY PEOPLE'S ARM OF VIETNAM (PAVN)

FORCES IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IN 1972 AND IMPRISONED IN THE

HANOL AREA UNTIL MAY 1975, SAW A GROUP OF CAUCASIAN PRISONERS

BEING MARCHED DOWN A RURAL ROAD NEAR HANOL.

SAID

RELATED THIS

INFORMATION TO HIM AFTER RELEASE FROM

FIR-317/09161-77

PRISON IN MAY 1975.)

3. AN UNIDENTIFIED PAYN ARMY CAPTAIN TOLD A CARROLL AND A

THAT IN AUGUST 1976 HE SAW A TRUCK CARRYING

AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF AMERICAN PRISONERS WHO WERE BEING HELD IN A MOUNTAINOUS AREA AT BA VI VILLAGE. THE PRISON CAMP WAS NEAR A TEA PLANTATION ABOUT 12 KILOMETERS FROM SON TAY.

CHEADQUARTERS CONCIENT: THE PAVN CAPTAIN RELATED THIS INFORMATION IN SEPTEMBER 1976

WHO IN TURN RELATED IT TO

IN OCTOBER 1976 HE HAD SEEN ABOUT 15 TO 20 AMERICAN PRISONERS OF NAR (PN'S) ON A TRUCK NEAR HAI DUONG WHILE HE WAS TRAVELLING BY BUS BETWEEN HANOI AND HAIPHONG.

Control of the first of the control of the control

Same and the second of the second of the second

SAID HE WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO OBSERVE THE MEN, DE-SCRIBED THEM AS CHAINED TOGETHER IN PAIRS, WEARING STRIPED PW UNIFORMS, AND ALL APPEARING EITHER SICK OR INJURED.

DOCTOR IN NORTH VIETNAM, HE HAD PERSONALLY SEEN MANY AMERICAN PW'S, WHICH MADE HIM FEEL 100-PERCENT SURE THAT THE PRISONERS ON THE TRUCK WERE AMERICANS. IN MID-1976 HE HAD SEEN AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM THAT CONTAINED A REFERENCE TO AMERICAN PW'S STILL BEING HELD IN VIETNAM.

AN UNIDENTIFIED PAVN OFFICER HAD ONCE TOLD HIM THAT
THERE WERE STILL "HUNDREDS" OF AMERICAN PRISONERS, BUT MOST

FIR-317/09161-77

HAD BEEN DISPERSED TO CAMPS NEAR THE BORDER WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC). SAID THAT A PAYN LIEUTENANT COLONEL, HAD TOLD HIM THAT AMERICANS WERE STILL BEING HELD AS PRISONERS AS LATE AS MID-1976. COMMENT: DID NOT RELATE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION. ON THE EXISTENCE OF PRISON CAMPS, BUT ASSUMED ONE MUST EXIST IN HIGHLAND AREA NEAR HAI DUONG BECAUSE OF SEEING THE TRUCK CARRYING PW'S.) (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: RELATED THIS INFORMATION TO IN 1976. IN 1976 ... MADE VISITS TO POSSIBLY THE UNIDENTIFIED PAVN OFFICER MAY BE IDENTICAL WITH THE UNNAMED OFFICER The state of the s SAID HE OVERHEARD CONVERSATION IN JUNE 1976 IN WHICH AN UNIDENTIFIED PAVN LIEUTENANT COLONEL BOASTED TO A FEMALE. THAT THERE WERE STILL MANY AMERICAN PRISONERS IN NORTH VIETNAM. (HEAD-QUARTERS COMMENT: RELATED THIS INFORMATION AN OLD FRIEND, DURING VISIT IN JULY 1976.)

PIR-317/09161-77



CLASSIFIED BY SIGNER. XGDS-2. FIR-317/09161-77